

Remarks

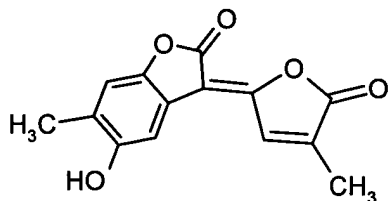
Claims 1-15 are pending.

Claims 3-15 are withdrawn.

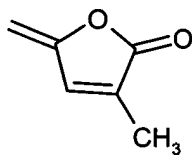
Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Chemical Abstracts 51:43285.

The Examiner specifically points out CAS registry no. 80651-86-1.

Applicants point out that CAS registry no. 80651-86-1 relates to the compound:



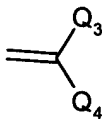
This compound contains a lactone radical



directly linked to the benzofuranon-2-one moiety.

None of the presently claimed compounds of formula Ia contain a lactone radical directly connected with the benzofuran-2-one residue via a double bond.

See the definition in claim 1 for X₁ being



where Q₃ and Q₄ together are lactam, quinomethylene, hydantoin, acenaphthanequinone, azlactone, pyrazolonyl, barbituric acid isoindolinone or isoindoline radical.

The groups Q₃ and Q₄ together are not lactone.

Applicants submit that in view of this discussion, that it is clear that the cited reference does not anticipate the present claims.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections under 35 USC 102(b).

Applicants submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler A. Stevenson'.

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